

New Mexico Highway 50 Transportation Study

A Collaborative Project of the National Park Service, Federal Highway Administration and New Mexico Department of Transportation

Project Information Sheet

October 2004

Alternatives Study Description

The National Park Service, Federal Highway Administration and New Mexico Department of Transportation have joined forces to study potential alternatives for the segment of New Mexico Highway 50 that traverses Pigeon's Ranch in the Glorieta Unit of Pecos National Historical Park.

The agency partners have recently retained a consultant team led by Otak, Inc., to assist in developing and analyzing potential alternatives for this segment of the highway. Public and stakeholder involvement and community outreach will be an integral part of the study process. The agency partners will seek public input before developing and analyzing a range of potential alternatives (which may include retaining the current alignment).

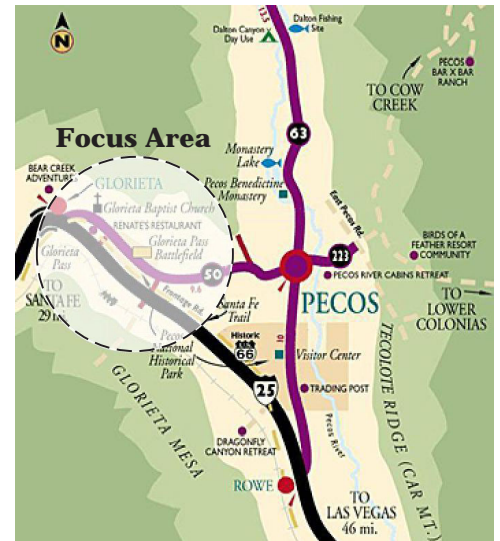
A series of public workshops are being planned for the week of January 24, 2005, after the initial data collection and base mapping stage of the study is completed. Input from these workshops will help to shape development of the alternatives.

Anticipated long-term benefits of a successful plan include improved transportation access and safety for the region, enhanced park preservation and interpretation efforts, and local economic development through improved transportation and park experience opportunities for visitors.

Pecos National Historical Park received the services of a National Park Transportation Scholar through the Ford Motor Company. The Transportation Scholar has been instrumental in setting up the study process and coordinating with the partnering agencies.



New Mexico Highway 50 at Glorieta Pass



Study Context Map

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Study Area Location

The study area lies 20 miles east of Santa Fe, New Mexico and focuses on the corridor of New Mexico Highway 50 from Interstate Highway 25, Exit 299 through Pigeon's Ranch at Glorieta Pass. This corridor has a multiple-layered history as the site of Native American settlements dating back 12,000 years, an original segment of both the Santa Fe Trail and Route 66, and the site of the Civil War era Glorieta Battlefield, where 2,600 Union and Confederate troops fought a decisive battle for control of the western states in March 1862.

Save the Date!

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

The Study Team will be conducting public workshops to gather input and ideas during the week of January 24, 2005.

"Stay Tuned" for more information

Study Purpose & Goal

The general purpose of the study will be to identify and evaluate feasible alternatives and provide recommendations that will preserve and provide public access to the Civil War era Glorieta Battlefield and Pigeon's Ranch, while also improving the safety of the roadway for local residents, park visitors and the community of Pecos.

A primary goal of this project is to recommend implementation steps toward a long-term solution for resolving issues related to the growing transportation demands on New Mexico Highway 50, balanced



Existing conditions in the study area.

with preservation and interpretation goals at the Glorieta Unit of Pecos National Historical Park. The process is intended to be comprehensive, context-sensitive, and fully inclusive of public participation.

Study Objectives

- Ensure broad public involvement in the planning process.
- Preserve the historic resources of the battlefield.
- Provide safe and efficient transportation linkage for Pecos residents and visitors.
- Allow interpretation of the historic resources and provide safe visitor access to the battlefield.

Scope of Project

The following tasks will be completed as part of the Alternatives Study:

- Public/Stakeholder Involvement and Community Outreach

- Data Collection & Base Mapping
- Existing Conditions Analysis/ Opportunities & Constraints Assessment
- Initial Alternatives Development (Through Public Workshops)
- Alternatives Screening and Evaluation
- Alternatives Refinement
- Draft and Final Study Preparation
- Identification of Next Steps

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